

# Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - I

October 1999



## UT-TF1 Canine Evaluation

Submitted by Eric Jones

Ren and I had the recent opportunity of participating in the Canine Evaluation in Salt Lake City, Utah. The rubble site which includes the test location is actually in the confines of the city landfill with many moving trucks and smells. The area is very dry and dusty with some prickly foliage and rocks. In attendance were canines from FL-TF1 (recently returned from Turkey). CO-TF1, IN-TF1, PA-TF1, and MA-TF1. There were a lot of recertifying canines and a few trying to pass the basic. I think that all except me had attempted to take the basic once before or were recertifying. We also went to another location within the city to practice some agility, Ren and I left after about an hour so we could get some rest. The next morning an EMT level canine first aid class was given by Jan Brennan, Ren and I decided not to participate. Instead we set up a directibility course at Alta and we had some very short, very motivational training in obedience and directibility. We then went for a walk, and had some down time. Late that afternoon, Ren did a short runaway into some big rubble in the mountains intended to increase motivation. The training was successful.

Friday evening we had a short meeting with all evaluators and participants. We went over ground rules for the test and had a question and answer period. It finally hit me that this is it. That queasy feeling begins in my stomach and I feel like jelly. I just keep wishing that tomorrow will hurry up. I sleep very little that night, Ren snores. Saturday morning finally arrives and Ren and I drive from Alta to Salt Lake City Landfill. Ren and I are picked to be number 8 in a field of 13. "Don't mean anything," I said to myself, "this is going to be a cake walk." Obedience testing began with the aggression tests. Ren tried to lick the helper walking him to death, but of course passed the aggression test without difficulty. Figure eight was no problem. Next up the off lead healing in a crowd. He was right at my side the entire time,

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## Ditto's Story

Submitted by Ditto

I love California. I love the beach. I love the hike think I may have even found a little bit for Max, even DOES have the most common dog name in America



He kept telling me I needed a day off, that I should lighten up and not bark so much. And, you know, I decided he was right. Come test day, I couldn't resist doing my usual bombproof alert on four of those poor souls. As for the other two, I know Max would find them.

Besides, I'm still ahead of Max 16 to 14 on Type I test alerts, and I know Mom has enough frequent flyer miles for another trip to California... I love California!

## Max and Hershel Smoke 'Em in California

Submitted by Elaine Sawtell



The sun was high and it was hot in San Jose, not much breeze. The piles of debris and concrete were big. So were the trucks rumbling by.

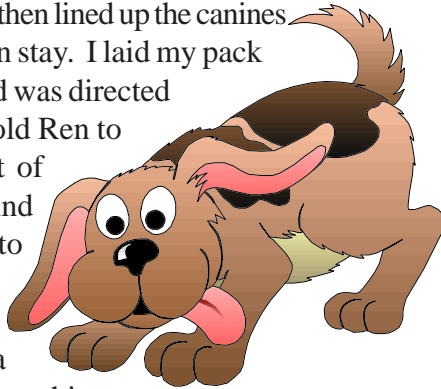
Eight teams stepped up to prove they were up to the test, five of them already Type I dogs. Six victims laid under the rubble awaiting rescue.

When it was all over, only ONE dog met the challenge. Only ONE handler was able to mark five spots where his partner barked.

Congratulations to Max and Hershel...you made it look easy!!

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preparation really was paying off now. Ren performed an immediate change of gait during the drop on recall. Could be faster I think to myself, but definitely passing. Ren shows no signs of anticipation on the drop, he looked good. The evaluators then lined up the canines for the 5 minute down stay. I laid my pack down next to Ren and was directed to leave my dog. I told Ren to stay and walked out of sight. I returned to find that the canine next to him had broke it's stay and approached him. He is about 1/4 of a body length away from his



original position. Someone tells me he was trying to ignore the other canine and moved. The other canine failed, Ren and I proceed on. Bark barrel is next. Ren pulls me to the starting line, and after a few motivational whispered expletives from his handler he barks and digs enthusiastically for that beautiful mud coat that labs like so much. We're looking tough, we're look good. As we were approaching the directability area a large shepherd on a 6 foot leash lunges at Ren in an unprovoked attack. Before I can do anything he has Ren's entire snout in his mouth. As this is a first for Ren, he freaks out becoming very aversive towards other canines and people and is shaking badly. He is bleeding from several puncture wounds on his face. The other handler doesn't say anything and walks away. Ren and I leave the area and play for a while. He has lost some pep, but seems otherwise ready. His directability is less than perfect, with some difficulty getting left. I take my time and try to relax, and am able to talk him through it. We pass the directibility. Next step is the agility.

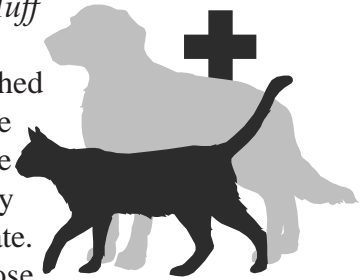
The agility is set up in actual rubble, the evaluators state that this is realistic and to pretend that the rubble itself is contaminated. Ren performs the crawl well, balks on the teeter, performs his stop slow and turn flawlessly on the 8 foot elevation and ladder, tunnels enthusiastically. For the unstable surface there is a loosely rolled chain link fence in the rubble which the canine must jump onto and cross without touching the rubble. After some extremely poor handling on my part Ren fails to get on the fence and takes the easier route across the rubble. We are absolutely drained. The evaluators failed

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## Canine Medical Supply Cache

*Submitted by John Huff*

NE-TF1 has refurbished the canine supplies for the medical cache, to insure that anything required by FEMA's list is up to date. Listed below are those items specifically for canine care:



You might wish to review this and if you have any concerns using these canine care products, discuss them with your veterinarian prior to deployment.

Acepromazine  
 Antizol Vet Kit  
 Apomorphine  
 Atropine, ophthalmic ointment  
 Atropine, Injectable  
 Chloramphenicol Ophthalmic, Ointment  
 Dexamethasone  
 Dosage Manual  
 Ketoset  
 Metasplint, Canine, sized to meet canine needs  
 Muzzle, adjustable  
 Socumb  
 Tape, 3" roll (Elasticon or equivalent)  
 Tape, 1" roll (Elasticon or equivalent)  
 Tetracycline



*Canine  
Bulletin*



*Published by  
 Lincoln Fire Department  
 Administration  
 1801 'Q' Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68508*

*Phone: (402) 441-7363  
 Fax: (402) 441-7098  
 E-Mail: [fire@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:fire@ci.lincoln.ne.us)  
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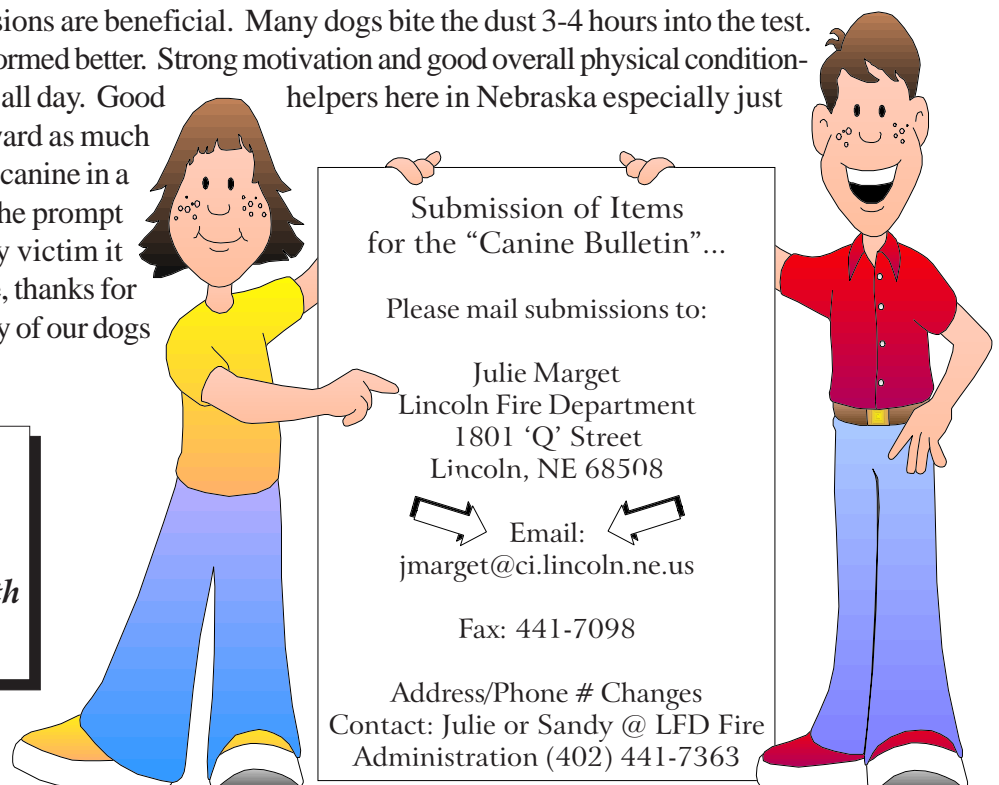
Ren and I on this area of the agility and stated we may complete the next and last part of the test which is the rubble. Instead I decline the rest of the test in favor of attempting to rebuild the drive and confidence that dwindled since the incident with the aggressive dog.

Ren and I drive for about two hours until we find a construction site with several pieces of rolled up chain link fence. Ren immediately jumps up onto them and we play on them for about a half hour and then drive back to the hotel. That evening we take a walk and play. I see that I have back what I lost during the test.

The next morning is a repeat of the first only better. The obedience begins, Ren drops faster, and heels tighter than he did on the previous day. Down stay is perfect, and he attacks the bark barrel with determination. In my opinion Ren performed the directibility and agility better than any canine there. He was fast, he was motivated, he was performing without flaw. Note that the fence was in the agility again, no problem. I can't believe it, we are moving on to the search, I kept saying to myself, "This is it, we're gonna make it." I give my interview, and we are ready to roll. Ren immediately makes access to a moderately difficult pile, I think ours is tougher, and I see him traverse the pile quickly and stay in one area. He is out of sight now. Ren returns to me once, and I water him and restart him. He returns to the area I felt he was showing interest in, but doesn't bark. He immediately traverses the pile to alert in another location. He barks repeatedly showing good victim loyalty and his penetration makes it easy to pinpoint the victims location. I then tell him to search and Ren works the pile hard for the next 10 minutes. His agility and directibility on the pile are excellent, and I feel he is searching hard. We cover at least 95% of the rubble. Time is up. I leave the pile with Ren, give him about a five minute hug after checking him over. We make our way back to the car. Evaluators state what I already know. Ren immediately found the first victim after accessing the rubble, and moves onto the second victim and alerts. I suddenly realized that all the training I had done before the test totally reinforced this behavior. Hard time to learn a lesson. To come so close and not make it. Yet, I knew that Ren, not only performed well today, but he did it all most with perfection. He tried so hard on the rubble. His failure on it was only a small bruise to a perfect day. I was disappointed, but proud.

Some think that day long training sessions are beneficial. Many dogs bite the dust 3-4 hours into the test. Canines that train for longer times performed better. Strong motivation and good overall physical conditioning made it easier for the canine to test all day. Good prior to the test. Lessons learned; reward as much as you can and vary the reward so that canine in a test or real world situation produces the prompt bark on not just the second, but every victim it finds. Once again, thanks to everyone, thanks for all of your help and support. When any of our dogs succeed, it truly is everyone's success.

**October  
Training Dates**  
October 22nd, 23rd, & 24th



Submission of Items  
for the "Canine Bulletin"...

Please mail submissions to:

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